

State of South Dakota

SEVENTY-THIRD SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1998

565B0832

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1012

Introduced by: Representatives Brown (Richard), Jorgensen, Pederson (Gordon), Schaunaman,
and Schrempp

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Setting forth certain legislative policy recommendations to
2 the Game, Fish and Parks Commission.

3 WHEREAS, in recent years, irresistible demographic and economic forces have exerted
4 powerful and pervasive changes on the American hunting tradition; and

5 WHEREAS, South Dakota has not proven immune from these national trends but finds
6 herself struggling to adapt and adjust to pressures which threaten many longstanding social
7 relationships; and

8 WHEREAS, South Dakotans, as residents of one of the last few truly rural states in this
9 rapidly urbanizing country, cherish our heritage of hunting, fishing, and outdoor activities and
10 wish to preserve that experience for our posterity; and

11 WHEREAS, we recognize that the foundation of this rural tradition has always been the
12 stewardship of the land and preservation of wildlife resources exercised by the American family
13 farmer and rancher; and

14 WHEREAS, the sacrifice and diligence that South Dakota landowners have freely offered
15 in support of our wildlife and game resources constitute a debt of gratitude which can never be

1 adequately repaid from the public treasury; and

2 WHEREAS, the Game, Fish and Parks Commission has attempted to seek out and implement
3 new policies in response to changing conditions which have been met with frequent and,
4 sometimes unfair, criticism from all sides; and

5 WHEREAS, the Legislative Research Council conducted a comprehensive study of hunting
6 issues during the 1997 interim in the hope of providing an open forum for the expression of
7 contrasting viewpoints and the mediation of honest differences; and

8 WHEREAS, it is now incumbent upon this legislative body to deliberate over these issues
9 and to support the efforts of the commission by offering a number of policy recommendations
10 that we may deem appropriate and beneficial to the resolution of these problems:

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-
12 third Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the
13 Legislature urges the Game, Fish and Parks Commission to consider each of the following
14 proposed policy changes and, after due deliberation and evaluation, to implement these policies,
15 with such alterations as the commission may deem necessary and appropriate, and, to the extent
16 possible, to do so in time for the 1998 hunting season:

17 (1) Increase the number of big game licenses and allow nonresident and resident big game
18 licenses to be nonunit specific or multiunit specific to facilitate continuing
19 relationships between landowners and nonresidents with whom they may have formed
20 a special friendship. Revenues received by the department shall be used by the
21 department to attempt to acquire free public hunting access through lease agreements
22 and to support expanded wildlife damage management programs;

23 (2) Move up drawing dates on various license classes to allow hunters more and earlier
24 opportunity to contact landowners and structure their hunting experience;

25 (3) Provide that if an applicant obtains the signature of an area landowner on any valid

1 application for any big game license attesting to the landowner's willingness to permit
2 the applicant to hunt on the landowner's land, the applicant shall receive a preference
3 in the license drawing;

4 (4) Aggressively solicit landowner input in formulating wildlife management policies and
5 determining season design;

6 (5) Remove the one-thousand dollar cap on walk-in area lease payments to encourage
7 landowners to offer larger tracts of land for inclusion in the program;

8 (6) Evaluate whether the department is employing a sufficient number of conservation
9 officers and whether these conservation officers are sufficiently trained and supported
10 to adequately perform their crucial role of interacting with both landowners and
11 sportsmen, to provide prompt and effective depredation mitigation, and to enforce
12 trespass and game law violations;

13 (7) Endeavor to identify locations as early in the year as possible where depredation is
14 likely to constitute a problem and to initiate contacts with area landowners in an
15 attempt to prevent depredation before complaints come in to the department;

16 (8) Consider a moratorium on large-scale land acquisitions while placing greater emphasis
17 on the use of leases in order to facilitate public access;

18 (9) Extend the special west river trophy buck program to include the east river resident;

19 (10) Consider preferences, special license classifications, or other means of encouraging
20 the harvest of antlerless deer;

21 (11) Establish a service within the department whereby interested landowners may, free of
22 charge, make available to hunters a listing of properties on which they are willing to
23 provide general hunting access and any terms or conditions that may apply. It should
24 be clear that listing property in this manner does not limit the landowner's right to
25 refuse access to any objectionable individual;

1 (12) Reevaluate whether populations of feral game species cannot be identified and treated
2 differently than populations of the same species of wild game;

3 (13) Study the feasibility of implementing a pilot program to address the present
4 dissatisfactions with west river deer licensing as well as the feasibility of coupon
5 systems and report findings and recommendations to the next legislative assembly; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we commend the efforts of all men and women of good
7 faith who are working constructively to preserve our American heritage of free and responsible
8 public hunting and private agricultural landownership and pledge ourselves to be open and
9 receptive to all ideas and opinions that are intended to foster those ends.